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Colleagues,

The theme of this year's [Women's History Month](#) is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." So much of this year's theme resonates with the work we do in CECI. Our collective efforts include scholarship related to women, gender, age, leadership, and intersections of these themes; service as advisors to student groups, sororities, and community organizations that support women; local, national, and international exploration of women's experiences, as well as personal reflective work. I take inspiration from many women who are not only pioneers, but also challenge my approach and ways of thinking. I'm inspired by women I know like Dr. Patricia Ramsey, [President of Medgar Evers College](#), and women who I would have loved to know, like the notorious RBG, who said ***"When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court]?' and I say 'When there are nine,' people are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that."*** ~Ruth Bader Ginsberg



As you do this work that educates and inspires, I hope you too have the opportunity to reflect on the women who have paved the way for us, guided by the words of President Jimmy Carter:

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

~Sherril Soman
CECI Dean

CECI Unit Spotlight



Teacher Preparation students from the **Department of Teaching and Learning** attended the [Michigan Council for Exceptional Children \(MCEC\)](#) Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on February 27 and 28, 2025. General education and special education student teacher interns and apprentices had the opportunity to engage with experts, educators, and future colleagues in the field of education.

This event offered students an immersive learning experience, allowing them to participate in workshops, seminars, and networking events that broadened their understanding of diverse learning needs and inclusive teaching strategies. Attendees were able to hear from experienced professionals about the latest trends and best practices in the field, as well as engage in conversations about policy, research, and real-world classroom challenges.

The conference also provided an excellent platform for future educators to gain practical insights that will aid in their development as teachers. By attending the MCEC Annual Conference, students had the chance to connect with like-minded individuals and mentors who could support their professional growth. With a focus on both the academic and emotional needs of students with exceptionalities, the event emphasized the importance of creating inclusive learning environments.

The College of Education and Community Education, along with the Department of Teaching & Learning, were proud sponsors of this event.



Celebrations

CONGRATULATIONS again to the 2025 Faculty Award recipients from CECI! Faculty members were celebrated by their colleagues and presented with their awards on February 18, 2025 at the 18th Annual Faculty Awards Convocation, an event that honors the outstanding contributions of our faculty. All recipients of University Awards for Excellence, Pew Awards for Excellence, and CSCE Awards for Scholarly and Creative Excellence can be found on the [Faculty Awards Convocation website](#). Read more about this year's celebration in the [latest edition of Grand Valley Forum](#).



Adrian Copeland
*School of Criminology, Criminal
Justice and Legal Studies*
Pew Teaching Excellence Award



Ellen Schiller
*Department of Teaching and
Learning*
Glenn A. Niemeyer Award



Courtney Topic
*School of Criminology, Criminal
Justice and Legal Studies*
**Pew Teaching with Technology
Award**

gacc Events

Winter 2025's [Global Awareness Collaborative Colloquium: Japan](#)

[March 17 | 6:00 PM | 203D DEV | Pew Campus](#)

Screening of Akira Kurosawa's *Ikiru* (score of 98% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes). Released in 1952, *Ikiru* translates to the phrase "to live." Kanji Watanabe is a career municipal bureaucrat, having risen to chief of Public Affairs, when he is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Thus begins his search for a purpose to his life.

[March 19 | 6:00 PM | Meijer Regency Dining Room \(102E DEV\) | Pew Campus](#)

Joel Zwart, GVSU Art Museum Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, will present "**The Art of Narrative in Japanese Prints,**" which serves as a primer for the works of Japanese ukiyo-e artists Utagawa Kunisada, Utagawa Hiroshige, and Utagawa Kunitada on display in the Richard M. DeVos Center Wall Gallery (Building B) through July 2025.

The Closing Celebration will be at the Japanese Garden, **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** (date and time TBA).



From CECI CACC



SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your calendars for the end-of-year all-college meeting on Monday, April 14th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Please reach out to your CACC representative if you have questions or input regarding the all-college meeting or other CACC events. Find your CACC representative, meeting dates, and minutes on the college governance site.

CECI College Governance

Save The Date!

60th
Anniversary
of
Education

SAVE THE DATE

5.7.2025

4:30pm - 6:30pm

Join us in celebrating mentor teachers, new graduates, and 60 years of education programs!
Please bring your Reach Higher posters for display.

RSVP form
coming soon!

L.V. Eberhard Center
301 Fulton St W, Grand
Rapids, MI 49504

Grand Valley State University
College of Education and
Community Innovation

Publications/Presentations

Carrie Buist, Associate Professor in the **School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies (SCCJLS)**, co-authored the second edition of [Feminist Criminology](#). The book traces the growth of feminist criminology from the 1970s to the present, examining the diversity of feminist criminologies that have developed, the ways they have responded to and built on one another, and future directions for research and activism.

Tova Hartle, faculty with **Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC)**, presented a roundtable session at the National Law & Ethics in Counseling conference in New Orleans on February 12. The topic, "Where Do I Fit In? School Counselors' Roles, Competence, and Ethics in Risk Assessment," explored the balance between legal and ethical considerations of risk assessment as aligned with ASCA recommendations.

Drs. Kristen Jack, Mohammed Lefrid, and Lorie A. Tuma of the **Hospitality and Tourism Management Program (SCLD)** had their case study, "Strategic Event Planning for a Centennial Celebration: A Case from the Michigan Insurance Sector," accepted for publication in the *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, an international refereed e-journal published by ICHRIE (International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education). This case study examines how GVSU HTM faculty helped a Michigan-based insurance company strategically plan and execute six large events, embedded within a year-long centennial celebration designed to enhance stakeholder engagement, reinforce brand reputation, and integrate corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. This case also includes the integration of a community event led by Dr. Patty Janes, also from the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program, and [Michigan Cares for Tourism](#). Designed for both undergraduate and graduate students, the case provides insights into event planning, CSR, digital engagement, and stakeholder relationship management. Teaching objectives focus on analyzing event strategies, evaluating CSR impact, and applying digital tools to enhance corporate milestones. To complement the case, they produced a [culminating video](#) that provides a multimedia perspective on event execution and stakeholder engagement, with a [second video](#) that captures Michigan Cares for Tourism's involvement in the project.

Dr. Leanne Kang, Associate Professor in the **Literacy, Educational Foundations, and Technology Department (LEFT)**, will be presenting at the [16th Annual Local History Roundtable](#), hosted by the GVSU Kutsche Office of Local History, **on Wednesday, March 19**. Dr. Kang's panel, entitled, "Podcasts and Community Storytelling: Uncovering GRPS' History Together," uncovers a compelling portrait of Grand Rapids Public Schools' history through podcast interviews. She will be joined by multigenerational guests to discuss the legacy, present, and future of GRPS as an urban school district.

Dr. Mohammed Lefrid, Assistant Professor of **Hospitality and Tourism Management (SCLD)**, mentored and assisted SCLD graduate student, Khoudia Fall, in giving a poster presentation entitled, "Dietitians' Reliance on Artificial Intelligence to Deliver Personalized Meal and Dining Experience in Senior Living Communities," at the annual [Art and Science of Aging Conference](#) on February 28. The theme of this year's conference was "Healthy Aging Through Education and Technology," and was organized by faculty, staff, and students in the **School of Community Leadership and Development**.

Dr. Laila McCloud, Assistant Professor of **Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC)**, was a featured panelist at [Reflections: The Annual Women's Leadership Panel](#), hosted by the GVSU Women's Commission. This annual event spotlights the journeys and accomplishments of women leaders at Grand Valley by offering a platform for them to share their perspectives on leadership, management, work-life integration, professional strategy, self-care, and many other topics.

Dr. Lorie A. Tuma, Associate Professor of **Hospitality and Tourism Management (SCLD)**, explored the evolving role of travel agents and online travel agencies (#OTA) in the hotel industry in a recent [podcast episode](#) hosted by Bruce Jordan. The conversation provided valuable insights into the strategies top travel agents use to secure the best deals, optimize bookings, and enhance customer experiences. With a focus on industry trends and best practices, the discussion underscored the importance of adaptability and customer service excellence in an increasingly competitive market.

Greg Warsen, Associate Professor of **Educational Leadership and Counseling (ELC)**, was [interviewed by WZZM](#) about the potential impacts of closure of the U.S. Department of Education on schools and districts in the state of Michigan.



(Pictured above: Top row from, left to right: Carrie Buist, Tova Hartle, Leanne Kang, Mohammed Lefrid.
Bottom row from left to right: Kristen Jack, Laila McCloud, Lorie A. Tuma, Greg Warsen.)

Faculty Enrichment/Training

TEACHING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS?
FEELING THE BURN?

\$750 Stipend!

STRONG START TEACHING INSTITUTE

\$750 Stipend!

How can YOU help your students begin their GV journey with a **strong start**? The [Strong Start Teaching Institute](#), hosted by PEW FTLC, equips faculty with best practices for engaging first-year undergraduates. Over two days, faculty will explore resources and examples around four themes:

- **Clarity** in academic expectations
- **Belonging** at GV and in the classroom
- **Student resources** and how to connect them
- **Active learning** to boost engagement and achievement

When: May 5 (8:30 AM–5 PM) & May 6 (8:30 AM–12 PM)

Where: DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health (DCIH) 445

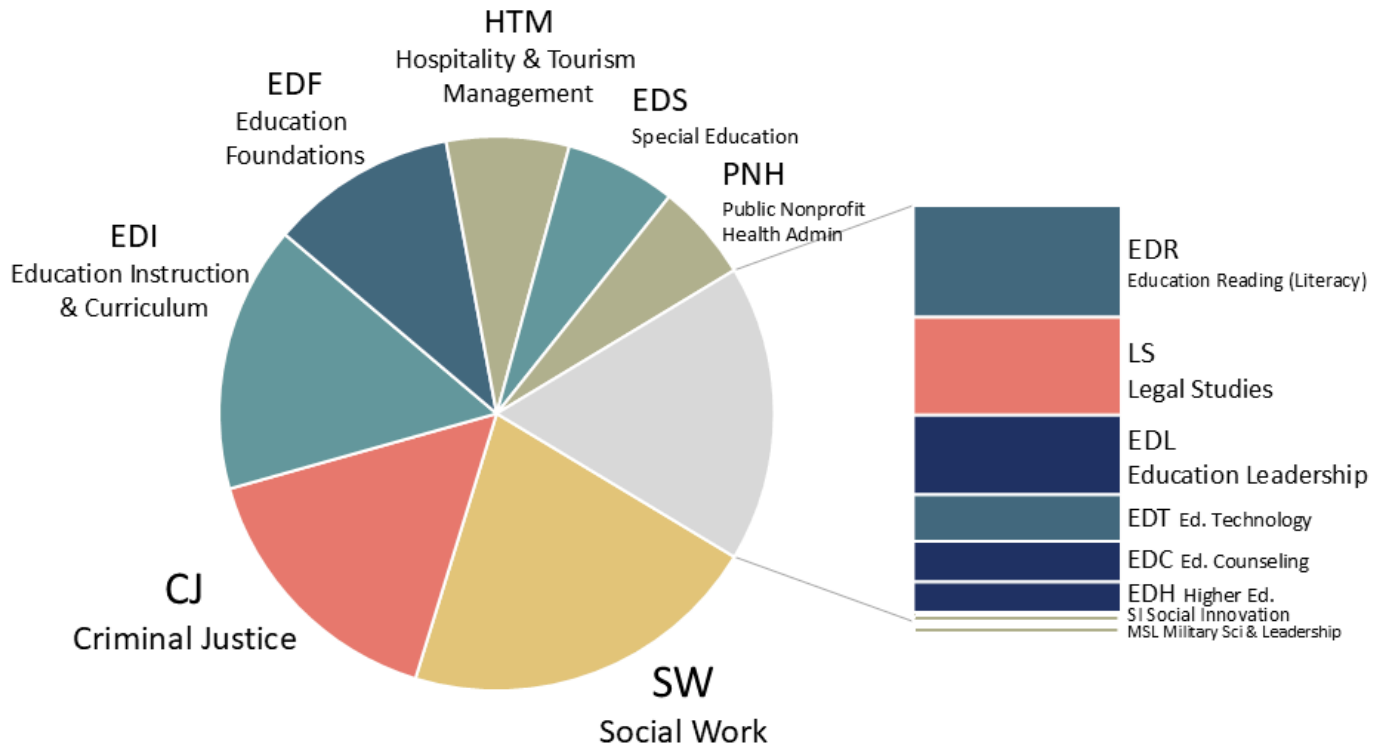
Whether you're teaching a course for the first time or refining an existing one, this Institute offers valuable insights. Sessions include both in-person and asynchronous components, relevant across disciplines and experience levels. [See the Strong Start page for more details.](#) **Limited to 40 participants. Preference given to first-time attendees, adjunct, affiliate, and visiting faculty.**

Register by April 18

Did You Know?

Registration (Student Credit Hours) by Course Prefix

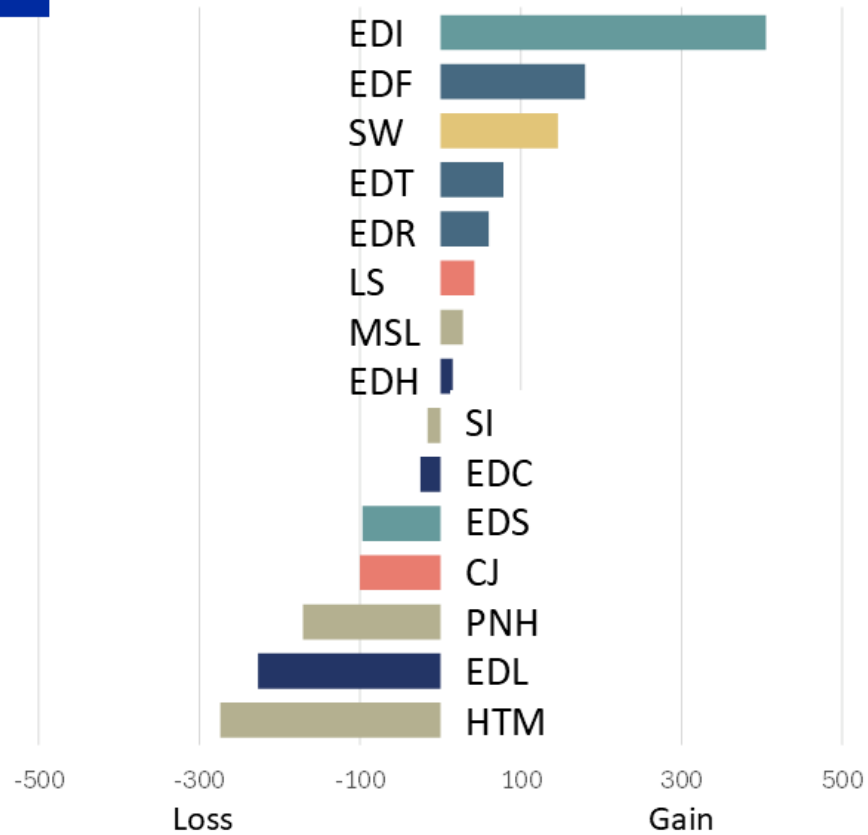
CECI = 28,889 SCHs



Winter 2025

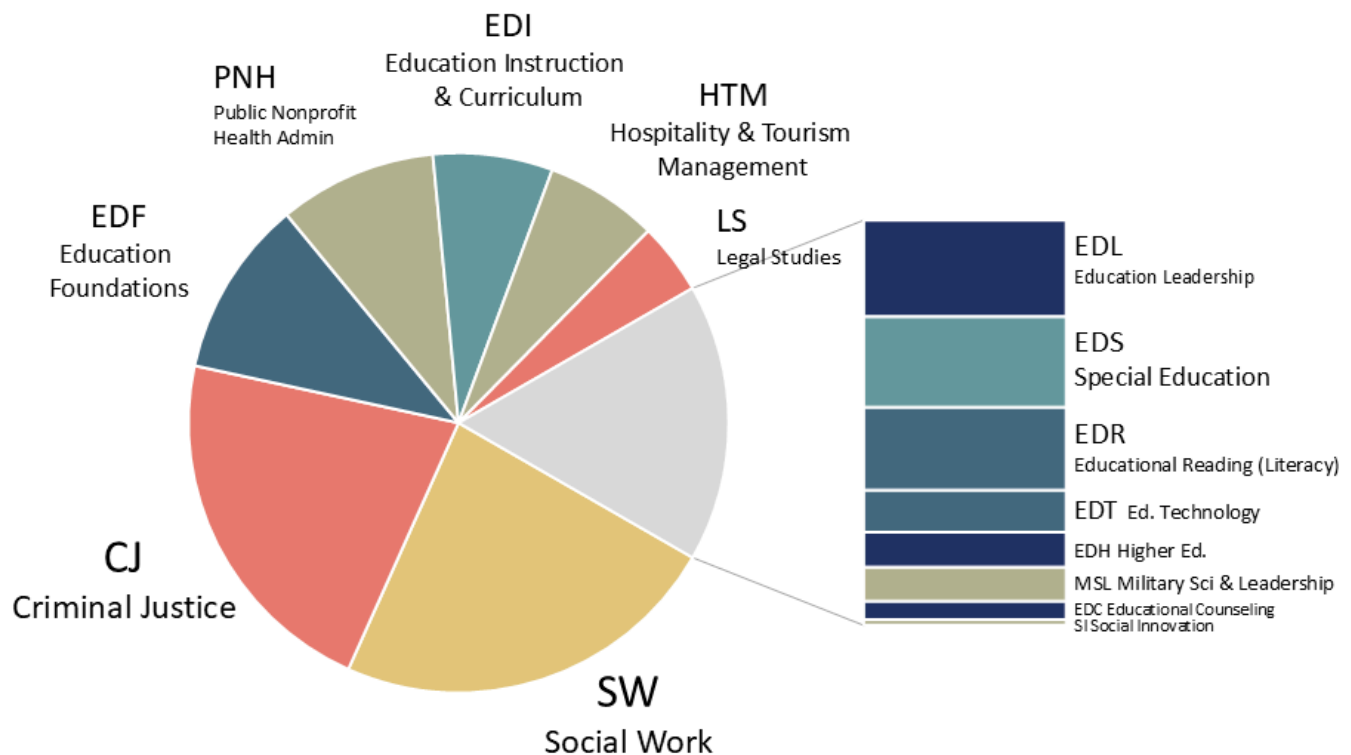
Change in Student Credit Hours by Prefix Winter 2024 to Winter 2025

CECI = +44 SCHs



Enrollment (seats filled) by BIPOC students by Course Prefix

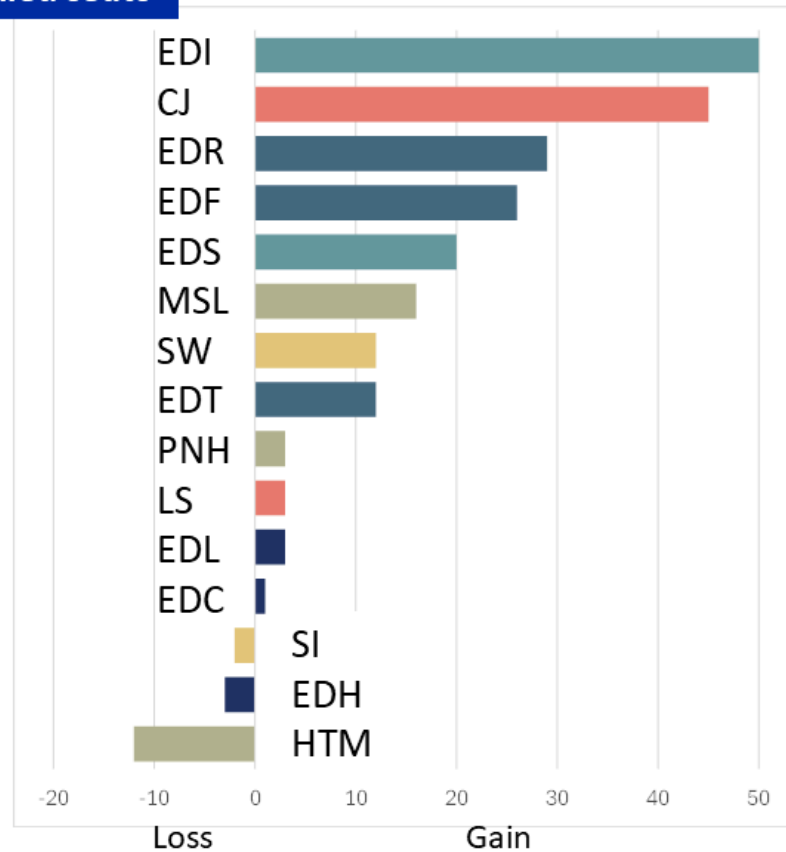
CECI = 2,147 filled seats



Winter 2025

Change in BIPOC Enrollment (seats filled) by Prefix Winter 2024 to Winter 2025

CECI = +203 filled seats



University Governance

[CECI University Committees](#)

[Representation Slidedeck](#)

[Representation List](#)

College Governance

[CECI Governance Committees](#)

[Governance Website](#)

[Representation List](#)

[Faculty Council](#)

All committee meetings are from **9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**
via **Zoom** and are open to all CECI faculty.

College Advisory and Communication Committee

Remaining Winter 2025 Meetings:

Wednesday, March 19
Wednesday, April 16

Remaining Winter 2025 Meetings:

Wednesday, March 19
Wednesday, April 16



March 19 - [Big Byte Webinar](#) | 1:30 PM (Zoom), 2:30 PM (Committee Meeting)
April 8, 9 & 11 - [Student Scholars Day](#) | Allendale Campus - [Schedule of Events](#)
April 11 - [Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence](#) | 5:00 PM | Loosemore
April 14 - [Year-End Winter Meeting](#) | 9:00 AM | Seidman 1008 Multipurpose Room
April 14 - [Student Awards Convocation](#) | 5:00 PM | Eberhard Center
April 15 - [Graduate School Showcase](#) | 3:00 PM | Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
April 25 - [Commencement](#) | 7:00 PM | Van Andel Arena

CECI HAPPENINGS

[CECI Happenings](#) is an informational form that can be submitted by any faculty, staff, or student to promote an event, publication, etc. that they would like shared to CECI social media platforms and/or the newsletter.

Important Dates

WINTER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

January 8 - Winter Personnel Portfolios due to Unit Heads
February 23 - Unit Heads submit appropriate winter personnel documents to Dean
February 29 - Dean forwards winter personnel documents to CPC
March 29 - CPC submits winter personnel recommendations to Dean
April 19 - Dean submits winter personnel recommendations to Provost
June 1 - Provost makes winter personnel decisions and notifies all appropriate people

ANNUAL SCHEDULE

2025-2026 Annual Schedule - Remaining Important Dates				
Semester	Phase	To	Available	Edits Complete By
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Live/Viewable to Students	12/9/2024	
SS25	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
SS25	Advanced Registration (Course Changes)	Registration Live	3/17/2025	
F25,W26	Final Round - QC & Roomless	Records	2/10/2025	2/28/2025
F25,W26	Schedule Viewable (Course Changes)	Planner Available	3/1/2025	
F25,W26	Advanced Registration (Course Changes)	Registration Live	3/17/2025	

Resources

[Acronyms](#)

[CECI Connections Guide](#)

[CECI Newsletter Repository](#)

[Experts Guide](#)

[Organizational Chart](#)

[Student Flowchart](#)

Thanks to all those who contributed to the March 2025 edition of *CECI Connections*:

Sherril Soman, Jen DeWaard, Jackie Doyon-Martin, Tova Hartle, Mark Hoffman, Leanne Kang, Mohammed, Lefrid, Lorie A. Tuma, Greg Warsen, and Vicky Wright.

Please send items to share in future editions of CECI Connections to Victoria A. Stubbs at stubbsvi@gvsu.edu.

Questions? cecidean@gvsu.edu | (616) 331-6821 | gvsu.edu/ceci

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